

XVI.—EXTENSION OF THE RANGE OF THE SNAKE  
*CONTIA PERSICA* ANDERS. IN THE PUNJAB.

Among some snakes sent to me from Sakessar, 4,500 ft. on the Salt Range by Mr. A. D. R. D'Abreu, Civil Surgeon, Sargodah, was a specimen of *Contia persica*, Anders. This snake inhabits Persia, Baluchistan, the North-West Frontier Provinces and has been taken at Murree; the present locality extends its range further south into the Punjab. Other snakes from the same locality were *Zamenis rhodorchachis*, Jan. and a Phooras *Echis carinata*.

CENTRAL MUSEUM,  
 NAGPUR.

E. A. D'ABREU,

F.Z.S.,

December 7, 1933.

Curator.

XVII.—A WHIP-SNAKE (*DRYOPHIS MYCTERIZANS* DAUD.)  
 FEEDING ON THE LIZARD (*CALOTES VERSICOLOR*).

The other day at Andheri, I saw a Whip-Snake capture the lizard commonly known as the "Bloodsucker" on a wire fence. The snake caught the lizard just behind the head and held it firmly. The lizard in its struggles dropped off the wire and dangled in the air while the snake maintained its hold. The Bloodsucker was very active at first, but gradually it quietened down, its movements became feeble and were eventually stilled. As death approached the lizard changed colour from light brown to dark brown.

When the lizard stopped struggling the snake gradually moved its jaws alternately till it got the head lengthwise into its mouth. It now commenced to swallow it, hanging head downwards from the wire. The body of the victim gradually disappeared leaving the tail protruding. When the body of the lizard past the head the snake altered its position. It put its head on one of the upper wires of the fence and by contortions of the body pushed the lizard down till it reached the stomach, the snake rising higher and higher as the lizard went down. All this time I remained perfectly still and carefully followed the proceedings from about a yard away. The whole process was completed in twenty-five minutes. The interesting point is the gradual death of the lizard from the poison of this snake. Death followed in almost ten minutes after capture. It is well-known that the Whip-Snake is one of the back-fanged colubrids. It is poisonous only to its natural prey but is harmless to man. It may be freely handled and will always give warning if it intends to bite, by opening its mouth wide before